

Application Serial No. 10/570,739
Reply to Office Action of March 7, 2007

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PATENT
Docket: CU-4717

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated March 7, 2007, the Examiner states that Claims 1 and 2 are pending, and Claims 1 and 2 are rejected. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Amendments to the claims have been made to overcome these rejections.

In the Office Action, Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Handforth (U.S. 4,402,262). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Handforth in view of Schnee (US 3,936,547). The Applicant has amended Claim 2 to incorporate the features of Claim 1. Claim has been cancelled.

Handforth does not disclose that adhesion of the ink layer is to be lowered after it's printing by a resin solution containing water. What Handforth discloses is that: the polymer A, which has a function to cause the permanent adherence of the ink layer to the substrate, presents as particles at the time when the polymer is printed as ink (Col. 2, lines 10-15); and the polymer A is generally insoluble in water (Col. 3, lines 34-35). It is further disclosed that the polymer A is preferably compatible with the substrate since the polymer A has the function to cause the permanent adherence of the ink layer to the substrate (Col. 3, lines 24-33).

Therefore, a skilled person in the art would consider printed materials, with the ink disclosed in Handforth printed, having good water repellency and having an ink layer adhered to a substrate. Accordingly, a skilled person would know that it is difficult to impregnate the printed material with a melamine resin solution (aqueous solution) as disclosed in Schnee.

In view of the above, polymer B would have better adhesiveness than that of the polymer A (a case the Examiner asserts) only when the polymer A is present in the ink as particles and not yet to be adhered on to the substrate. The polymer B

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cannot have better adhesion than the polymer A when the aqueous solution is impregnated to the printed material after the polymer A is adhered on to the substrate.

Therefore, there is no motivation for the skilled person to impregnate the printed material disclosed in Handforth with the melamine resin solution (aqueous solution) disclosed in Schnee.

Claim 2 has the advantageous effect of restricting the generation of surface irregularity, and this effect can be achieved only when the water based resin, urethane emulsion, bright pigment and thermosetting resin are combined.

The printed material disclosed in Handforth can have the same structure as Claim 1 of the present application. However, Handforth does not disclose that the ink layer simultaneously comprises an acrylic resin as the polymer A, a urethane resin as the polymer B, and a bright pigment as the pigment. Further, Handforth does not disclose that it has the effect of restricting the generation of the surface irregularity of the brightness caused by alignment change in the bright pigment when the bright pigment is contained as an ink.

Further, although Schnee discloses to impregnate an aqueous solution into a decorative paper, it does not disclose to do so for a decorative paper comprising a bright pigment. It also does not disclose that the surface irregularity of the brightness is caused when the solution is impregnated to decorative paper comprising a bright pigment.

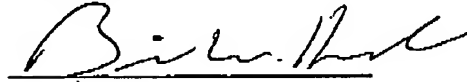
Accordingly, the skilled person would have no motivation to combine Handforth with Schnee to arrive at the claimed invention in the present application.

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In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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